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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

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CD NO. [redacted]

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Production and Research at SAG "Kaustik", Bitterfeld

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[redacted]

[redacted] production and research at SAG "Kaustik", Bitterfeld:

1. Nine of the ten copper-calcium baths are now in use, and the cost of manufacture of distilled calcium has been reduced to less than 10 Ostmark per kilogram. There is a trend to produce less crude calcium, but more copper-calcium. Difficulties in the packing of distilled calcium have recently been met. The air spaces have been packed with calcium hydroxide, which has occasionally reacted with the calcium and released hydrogen gas. This matter is to be investigated in the analytical laboratory at the Südwerk.

2. Research is being conducted in the analytical laboratory at the Südwerk with the object of developing an electrolysis-cell for the production of fluorine as used in the U.S.A., capacity to be 10 liters per hour, using a current of 20 amperes. The fluorine is to be used in research work in the department for synthetic materials. Dr. Gerhardt, who recently joined the laboratory, is engaged in the development of the cell.

3. Research was carried out in 1948 into the production of pure metallic powder of zirconium and titanium, and of metal won by the dissociation of iodide. This was performed by order of the Russian Ministry for Non-Ferrous Metals. The apparatus developed was sent to a town on the Moscow-Kursk railway. No further work is to be done because there is no market for these metals in Germany. Research work into magnesium-titanium alloys is being performed by Dipl. Ing. Eisenreich.

4. It was intended by the German management that Dr. Wirsching, who had worked on germanium in Frankfurt, should design a production plant. This will probably not be done, since there are no raw materials available. The metal was to be used in transistors.

5. A small plant is to be constructed by Dr. Fuldner to produce sufficient hydrazine-hydrate (10 kg per month) to remove the last traces of acidity from the boiler feed water of the factory power station. Permission to start construction has, however, not yet been received from the SAG headquarters in Berlin-Weissensee.

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Planned production method: reaction of hypochlorite with ammonia; crystallisation of the sulphate; reaction of the sulphate with barium hydroxide; or the conversion into hydrate by means of a Wofatit-anion-interchanger.

6. Dr. Jaukner (now in Göttingen) worked out a calcium fluoride production process in 1946 - 1947 for the Chlorine-technical Department of the Russian Ministry for Chemistry. None is produced in Bitterfeld.